

Forehoe & Henstead Rural District Council



THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Irene B. M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(G. A. J. Browne, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.)

and the

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

(W. A. Jones, M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.)

for

1965

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THE A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(Irene B.M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.)

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF FOREHOE AND HENSTEAD
NORFOLK

For the year ended 31st. December, 1965

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1965. This will be my nineteenth and last Report to the Council.

In view of the imminence of my retirement from my appointment as the Council's Medical Officer of Health, I propose to deal first with the statistics and other data relevant to 1965 and then to try to sum up the progress, or otherwise, which has been made during the last 19 years under the various headings of the Report.

It may be possible to devise a profit and loss account in terms of human betterment and by so doing to discover what has been successful, where no progress can be discerned and what are the urgent priorities for future activity.

GENERAL STATISTICS

			<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>
Area (in acres)	...	...	69,939	69,939
Resident mid-year population, (as estimated by Registrar General)	...	...	29,450	28,550
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	9,475	9,142
Rateable value	...	...	£721,124	£669,453
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	£3,088	£2,833

The estimated mid-year population was 29,450 compared with 28,550 in 1964. The excess of births over deaths was 191, so over 708 new residents must have moved into the district. The number of inhabited houses increased by 333 to 9,475.

RETROSPECTIVELY

In 1947 the resident population was 21,910, the number of inhabited houses 6,783 and the rateable value £76,667. The sum represented by the penny rate was £293. 19 6d.

In 19 years, therefore, the population has increased by 34% while the Council's income, i.e., rateable value, has gone up nearly 10 times. Inhabited houses increased by nearly 40% over the same period. This seems to suggest less domestic overcrowding than 19 years ago.

THE WEATHER, 1965

The year 1965 will go on record as one of the most depressing from the point of view of weather for at least 40 years. There were hardly any settled spells and these were masked and heavily outnumbered by long periods of inclement and uncompromising conditions. The summer months were predominantly cool, wet and dull and the total rainfall was over 29". The holiday month of July was the most unpleasant since 1925, August was slightly better, while in September the heavy rain returned to complete a dismal three months. Apart from late October, all the winter months were dull and cold and mostly very wet.

In the last 18 years, there have been 10 very severe winters and 8 relatively mild ones. For 6 years from 1951 to 1956 every winter was hard, the last one being in 1963.

Summers have had a bad record, 12 of them being predominantly wet or dull and 6 were sunny and warm.

Only 3 years, 1949, 1959 and 1964 had mild winters and bright warm summers. In 1947, 1952 and 1955 a severe winter was followed by a warm summer.

There was a long depressing run of bad summers from 1956 to 1963 except for one break in 1959 which was sunny and warm.

The increase of numbers of deaths from respiratory disease was notable in the hard winters, particularly if it was an epidemic year for influenza. The deaths were predominantly amongst the elderly.

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S

LIVE BIRTHS

				<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	274	263	537
Illegitimate	...	...	...	21	21	42
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				295	284	579
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	19.3
Birth rate adjusted for age and sex	...	...	19.6
Birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	...	...	18.0

STILL BIRTHS

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	...	1	3	4
Illegitimate	...	...	-	1	1
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			1	4	5
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 live and still births	...	...	8.5
Rate per 1,000 live and still births (England & Wales)	...	...	15.7

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>DEATHS</u>	159	224	383
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	12.7
Death rate adjusted for age and sex	...	...	8.2
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	...	...	11.5

Infant Mortality - Deaths of Infants under one year of age

			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	...	1	4	5
Illegitimate	...	...	-	1	1
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			1	5	6
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Additional Statistics

	<u>Forehoe & Henstead</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Infant Mortality rate (infant deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	13.6	19.0
Neonatal Mortality rate (infant deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)	6.9	13.0
Legitimate Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	11.1	-
Illegitimate Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	23.8	-
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	7.8%	7.7%
Maternal deaths (deaths ascribed to pregnancy, childbirth and abortion)	-	-
Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births	-	-
Perinatal Mortality	15.4	26.9

These tables show that the district is now gaining by birth at a greater rate than England and Wales but losing by death at a much slower rate. There was a considerable rise in the birth rate since last year and a sizeable fall in the death rate.

The illegitimacy rate has risen sharply, 2.8% higher than last year. It is now 7.8% compared with 7.7% for England and Wales.

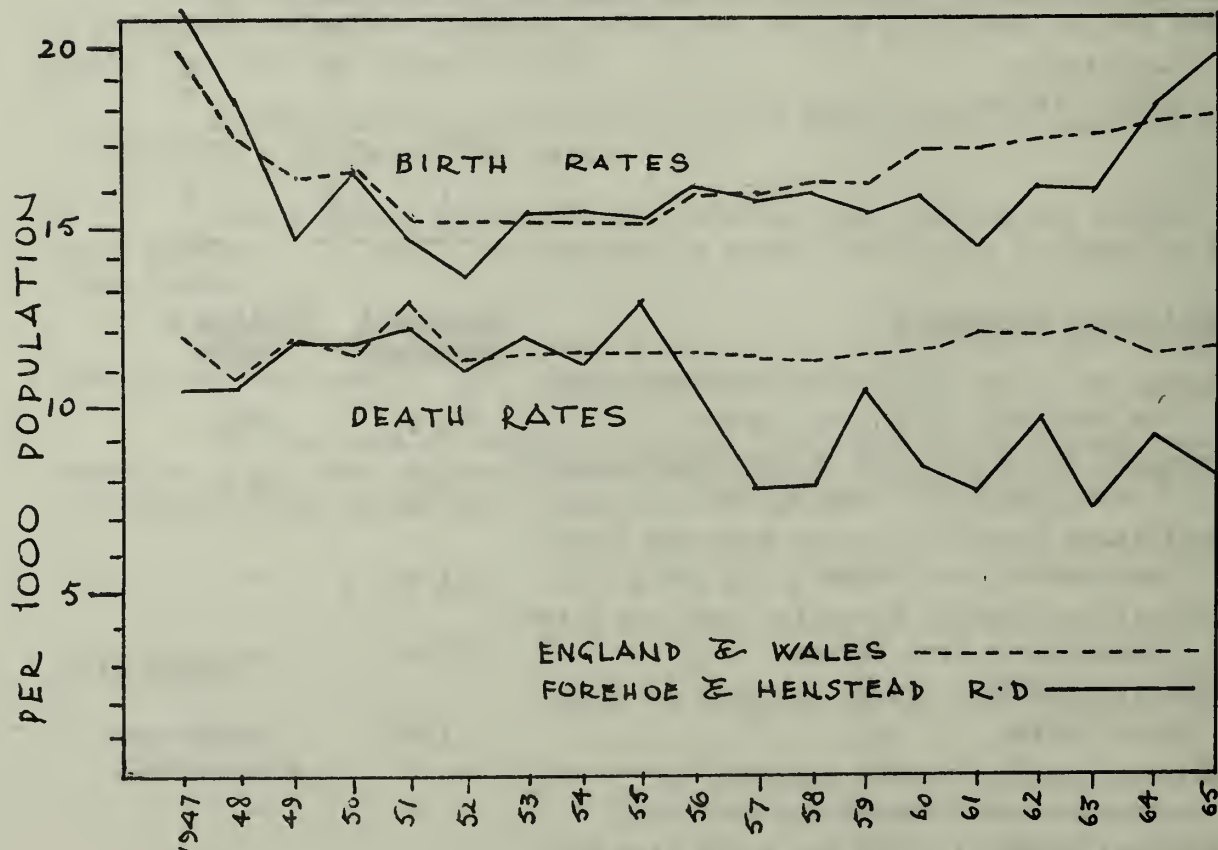
The infant mortality figure 13.6 was very low, much less than the record national figure of 19.0 and neonatal mortality was only half that for the country as a whole. There were again no maternal deaths associated with child birth and the perinatal mortality rate was much lower than in 1964 and only just over half the national rate.

RETROSPECTIVELY

Over the 19 years, the birth rate has followed the national trend, being 21.2 in 1947, falling to its lowest in 1952, namely 13.25, rising to an average of 15 or 16 for the next 10 years and then rising fairly steeply since 1961 to this year's figure of 19.6.

The death rate over the same period remained more or less the same as the national rate until 1956 since when new low rates have been recorded well below the average for England and Wales which remained at about 11.5.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES 1947-1965



Causes of Infant Deaths

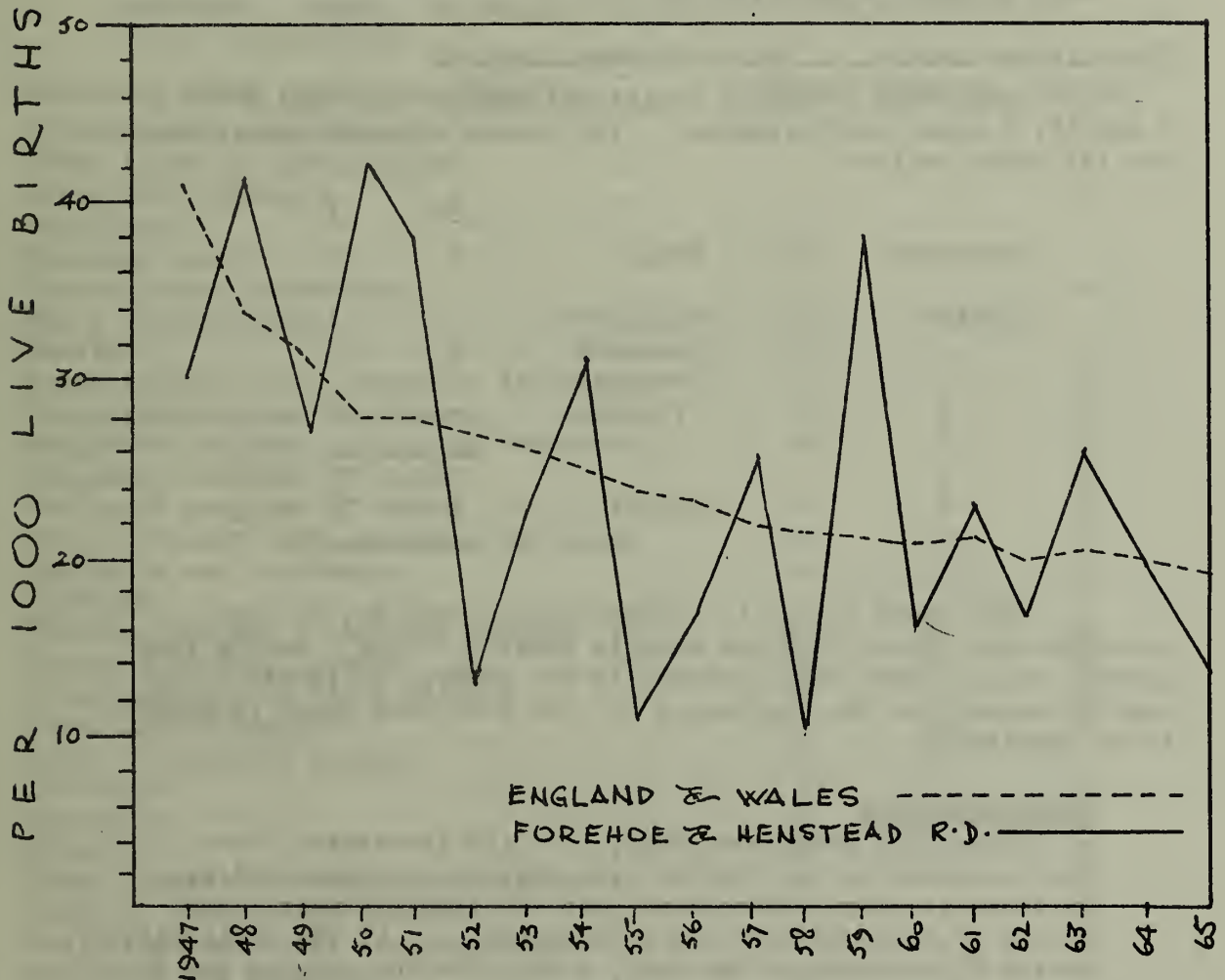
There were 6 deaths of infants under 1 year of age, 5 females and 1 male and only 1 of these infants was illegitimate. All but 1 were under 4 weeks of age and 4 were under 1 week.

The causes of these 6 deaths could be summed up thus:-

Preventable (1)	Male (Pneumonia)
Inevitable (5)	Congenital defects (2)
	Prematurity (3)

It will be seen that only one of these infants died from a preventable cause, namely, pneumonia. The other 5 could be classed as inevitable deaths from causes incompatible with survival.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES 1947-1965



RETROSPECTIVELY

With certain fluctuations, due to the small numbers concerned, the infant mortality rate has fallen from 35 to 40 from 1947 onwards to a much lower rate in the last 5 years. It is now 13.6, compared with a fall in the national rate of only about 50% in the same period.

It is notable that analysis of causes of infant deaths in the various reports shows a remarkable reduction in the number that could be considered preventable. Although, regrettably, a small number of infants still succumb to the occasional acute infection, the majority who fail to survive do so because of some inherent defect or extreme degree of prematurity incompatible with life. At our present state of knowledge we do not know how to prevent such congenital deficiencies.

The Life-Shorteners - Deaths between 1 and 45

There were 10 deaths registered between the ages of 1 and 45, 5 males and 5 females. The causes of death are given in the following table:-

				<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Accidents	(5)	Road	:	3	2
Disease	(5)	Malignant	:	1	1
		Coronary	:	1	-
		Cerebro			
		Vascular	:	-	2
				<hr/>	
		Totals	:	5	5
				<hr/>	

Half these deaths in younger people were due to road accidents and one of them was a child under 5. The 5 deaths from disease may not have been preventable but traffic accidents do not need to happen and the shortening of life from this cause is greatly to be regretted.

RETROSPECTIVELY

Since 1955 premature deaths, or life shorteners, have been recorded in the Reports with analysis by cause and sex. In these 11 years, there have been 98 deaths between 1 and 40 and of these 37 were due to accidents. Of the accidental deaths 25 occurred on the road, 4 were due to drowning and 8 were due to other types of accident. The worst feature of these wholly preventable deaths was that of 37 fatal accidents, 31 were suffered by males. There were only 2 suicides, one male and one female.

Diseases which shortened life were various - malignancy of all kinds accounted for 17% and infections, acute and chronic, for a further 17%, heart and kidney diseases together with congenital defects made up for the same proportion. The remainder could not be classified but it is interesting to note that in this age group there was only one maternal death in childbirth and one fatal case of tuberculosis, once the scourge of the young adult.

If accidents could be prevented, particularly amongst young males on the roads and the present downward trend continues in the number of fatal acute infections, only 50% of these deaths need to happen before the age of 40.

There were 21 child deaths between the ages of 1 and 15, and half of these were under 5. Accidents caused nearly 50% of all these deaths, 6 were suffering from gross mental defect and 5 died from various diseases including malignancy and leukaemia. Again, the waste of young life from accidents is grimly demonstrated.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u> (Registrar General)	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	-	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease ...	-	1	1
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-
Whooping cough ...	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections ...	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-
Measles ...	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases..	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm of stomach ...	2	3	5
Malignant neoplasm of lung or bronchus..	8	3	11
Malignant neoplasm of breast ...	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm of uterus ...	-	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	14	18	32
Leukaemia and aleukaemia ...	-	3	3
Diabetes ...	1	3	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	21	47	68
Coronary disease, angina ...	34	25	59
Hypertension with heart disease ...	2	-	2
Other heart diseases ...	18	38	56
Other circulatory disease ...	11	24	35
Influenza ...	1	-	1
Pneumonia ...	12	19	31
Bronchitis ...	8	2	10
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	5	-	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis ...	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate ...	1	-	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	-	-
C/Forward:	141	193	334

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Brought forward :	141	193	334
Congenital malformations ...	-	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	16	28
Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	2	5
Suicide ...	2	3	5
Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-	-
All other accidents ...	1	8	9
Totals :	159	224	383

Malignant Disease (including Cancer)

All forms of malignant disease caused 58 deaths with 11 from cancer of the lung, compared with 68 and 16 from lung cancer in 1964. The ages at which lung cancer was fatal are given below:-

	<u>45-54</u>	<u>55-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>	<u>Total</u>
Males	2	1	3	2	8
Females	-	-	1	2	3

This table shows that of the 8 male deaths from lung cancer, 3 died during working life and 2 of these were under the age of 55.

The following table gives a picture of the male deaths from this avoidable cause during the last 10 years; the bracketed figures give the number during working life:-

<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>Total</u>
8 (3)	15 (6)	7 (5)	6 (2)	11 (6)	5 (3)	9 (8)	8 (4)	17 (12)	10	96 (49)

RETROSPECTIVELY

This predominantly avoidable disease, lung cancer, has killed 96 men in the last 10 years and 50% of them died prematurely during working life, many of them at ages under 50.

As it is an established fact that heavy cigarette smoking is the commonest predisposing cause of this fatal disease, these figures cannot be too widely publicised. Nearly 100 families deprived of the main breadwinner, wives of their husbands and children of their fathers is a monstrous price to pay for a foolish habit. This is, of course, not the only price, although the most serious and final. To smoke himself to death must have cost the average victim at least £190. 0. Od. per annum and if he has smoked at this rate for 20 years or more, which is the common history in lung cancer cases, his golden path towards his early death must have cost in the region of £3802. In the light of these figures, if gambling is described as a "mugs game", what can you call heavy smoking? The young must be dissuaded from starting the habit. If parents care enough about their children's

future, surely they can give up this dangerous habit as an example to them. How much better in health they will feel and how much more money they will have to spend on better things!

What has happened to our once sturdy race? Are we mice or men? Why be born free to enslave yourself to nicotine? The National Health Service, however good, has no answer to this disease. Only the will of the people can prevent it.

Deaths from all Causes in Age Groups(1965)

<u>Age:</u>	<u>Infants</u>	<u>Pre-School</u>	<u>School Age</u>	<u>Working Life</u>					<u>Pensionable Age</u>		<u>Total</u>
				<u>15-24</u>	<u>25-34</u>	<u>35-44</u>	<u>45-54</u>	<u>55-64</u>	<u>65-74</u>	<u>75+</u>	
Totals:	6	1	-	3	2	4	19	56	72	220	383

It will be seen that 77% of all deaths occurred over the age of 65 and 57% over the age of 75. A total of 84 deaths were registered during working life compared with 66 in 1964, but 56 of these were in the 55-64 age group. The commonest cause of death was heart and circulatory disease (154), coronary disease (59). Male deaths from coronary disease greatly exceeded those for females and 15 of them occurred during working life. One case was under 45.

RETROSPECTIVELY

In 1947, 72% of deaths were over 65, while in the last 5 years this percentage has been around 80%, showing that more of the population are surviving well into retirement age. This has a bearing on the demand for statutory and voluntary services for the elderly which increases every year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

<u>Disease</u>	<u>N/K</u>	<u>0-2</u>	<u>3-4</u>	<u>5-9</u>	<u>10-14</u>	<u>15-24</u>	<u>25-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>Total</u>
Scarlet fever	-	2	4	7	2	-	-	-	-	15
Whooping cough	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Measles	3	22	30	46	3	2	-	-	-	106
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	6	1	-	1	-	-	3	4	7	22
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Food poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals :	10	25	36	56	6	2	3	5	7	150

There were 150 cases of notifiable infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis) during 1965 compared with 231 in 1964. The main reasons for this decrease were the smaller number of cases of measles (106) and whooping cough (3).

There were a few more cases of scarlet fever and pneumonia but no food poisoning and only 2 cases of dysentery.

Virus Vomiting Outbreaks

During 1965, there were many fewer outbreaks of virus vomiting.

The following schools were affected:-

<u>Month</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cases</u>
July	- Shotesham	7
	Newton Flotman	20
	Bawburgh	15
December	- Stoke Holy Cross	22
		<hr/>
		64
		<hr/>

In each incident the school was visited and an inspection carried out of toilets, washing facilities, and canteen arrangements for food storage etc. At the same time, if the result of enquiries seemed to warrant it, a certain number of specimens were sent to the Laboratory for examination to exclude a bacterial cause for the illness, such as dysentery.

In all cases, the specimens were negative but certain minor defects were discovered in the schools and these were brought to the notice of the Education Authority.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives the ages and sex incidence of new cases during the year. There were no deaths.

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>New Cases</u>			
	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
6 - 15	-	1	1	-
16 - 25	-	1	-	-
26 - 35	-	-	1	-
36 - 45	-	3	-	-
46 - 55	-	-	-	-
56 - 65	2	-	-	-
Over 65	-	-	-	-
<hr/>				
	2	5	2	-
<hr/>				

Cases on Register at 31st. December, 1965 :-

		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Total</u>	
		<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>
Male	:	51	57	7	6	58	63
Female	:	43	39	7	8	50	47
Totals		94	96	14	14	108	110

There were 108 cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year compared with 110 in 1964. New cases amounted to 9, consisting of 2 male pulmonary cases in 56-65 group and 5 female pulmonary cases, one under 15, one between 15 and 25 and 3 in their 30's. There were 2 non-pulmonary cases, both male, one under 15 and the other in the early 20's. No deaths from tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Prevention

(1) B.C.G. Vaccination in Schools

Total number eligible	:	379	Acceptance Rate	:	72%
Number tested	:	266	Rate Positive	:	11.6%
Number positive	:	51			
Number vaccinated	:	200			

The acceptance rate was higher this year, 72% compared with 68.8% last year and the percentage positive of those tested was much lower, 11.6% compared with 15.2% in 1964.

(2) Mass Radiography Unit

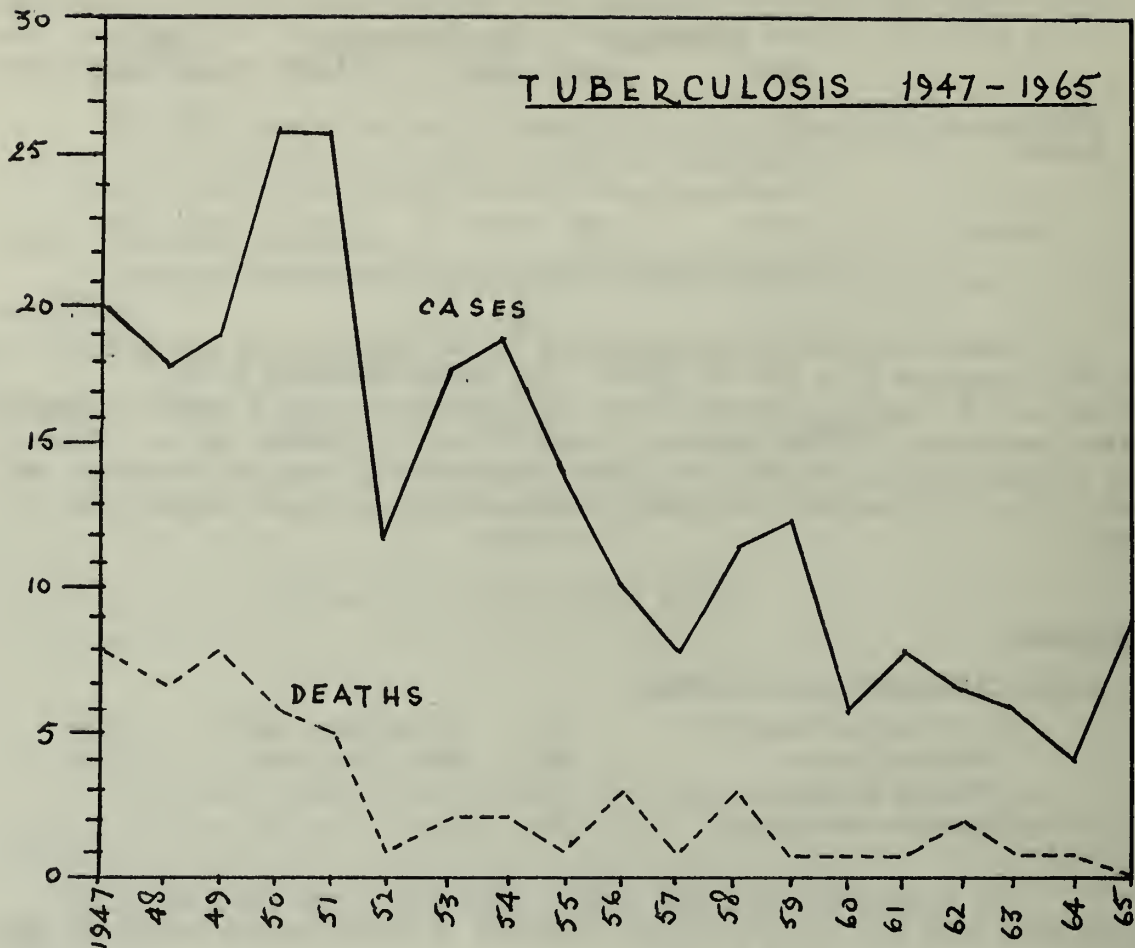
The Mass Radiography Unit continued to hold sessions both in Norwich and in various parts of the County during the year.

General Comment

Although more new cases were discovered this year, there were no deaths and tuberculosis can really be said to be coming under control, even if not entirely banished from the country in 1965.

RETROSPECTIVELY

In 1947, there were 20 new cases of tuberculosis and 8 deaths, most of the latter occurring in the 30's and early 40's. Over the years since then the incidence and mortality have fallen dramatically:-



With certain fluctuations, the rates for both new cases and deaths have fallen steadily. Modern drugs, new methods of early diagnosis and general social betterment have all helped to bring about this happier state of affairs. Tuberculosis in this country is no longer the "White Scourge" of not so long ago, which carried off hundreds of young people of both sexes and in all walks of life. It is only necessary to think of the famous men and women of letters who succumbed to this dread disease to realise what a triumph of medicine and social welfare these figures represent.

Best of all, the means of diagnosis in the shape of Chest X-rays has made it possible to treat the very early case at home with an almost certain cure and no period of ill-health or absence from work. The use of B.C.G. vaccination for school leavers has rendered young teenagers more or less immune from any infection they may encounter at work. Even the long-standing disease of the elderly can be rendered non-infectious by drug therapy, thus closing yet another door to infection. The victory over tuberculosis is one of the triumphs of modern medicine.

Immunisation and Vaccination

The County Council's Scheme for the protection of the community from various diseases continued to operate during the year. A large majority of children and a smaller number of adults have been immunised against some or all of the following diseases:-

Poliomyelitis	Whooping cough
Diphtheria	Smallpox
Tetanus	Tuberculosis

RETROSPECTIVELY

In 1947, when I came to this district, the only immunisation procedures operating were smallpox vaccination and diphtheria immunisation (since 1940), mainly of school children.

In 1956, the first selected age groups were offered protection against poliomyelitis and gradually as more antigen became available, it came into general use for people of all ages. In the last 4 years Salk vaccine by injection has been replaced by Sabin Vaccine given orally, a much more popular method of administration.

Whooping cough vaccine became generally available in 1958.

Tetanus vaccination was meanwhile becoming a routine procedure for school children and as combined antigens were developed, triple vaccination against whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus in infancy became universal practice. Oral polio is now given simultaneously with the triple vaccine.

The effectiveness of this immunisation programme is shown by the fall in incidence over the years:-

Diphtheria

The diphtheria immunisation scheme started during the War in 1940 and gradually became accepted by the majority of parents in the district. The disease, which used to be both prevalent and frequently fatal, has been abolished from the community.

The last case occurred in 1950 and there were single cases in 1947 and 1948. There have been no cases notified in the whole district for the last 15 years.

The value of immunisation has been triumphantly proved.

Poliomyelitis

Immunisation began in 1956, was extended in 1957 and became universal in 1958.

Disease Incidence (1947-1957) : 11 years
48 cases - 5 deaths - 12 paralysed
(1958-1965) : 8 years
No cases

Whooping cough

Immunisation available since 1958.

(1947-1957) : 11 years
914 cases - 3 deaths
(1958-1965) : 8 years
87 cases - no deaths

Comment

While it is noteworthy that poliomyelitis and diphtheria appear to have been abolished by immunisation, protection against whooping cough has not been so complete. The decreased incidence in recent years is, however, quite significant, with much milder symptoms and an absence of fatal cases.

Protection of Council Staff

Smallpox vaccination and protection against both tetanus and poliomyelitis have been offered to all members of the Staff, both indoor and outdoor. A good response has been received and the majority have been treated.

R O A D A C C I D E N T S

Through the courtesy of the Chief Constable of Norfolk, I am again able to give the following information about road accidents causing injury which have happened in the district during 1965. These figures refer solely to accidents occurring on the roads of the district and all those injured were not necessarily residents, but may have been in transit:-

	<u>Fatal</u>		<u>Serious</u>		<u>Slight</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>
Drivers	2	-	16	18	43	36	61	54
Passengers	-	-	11	15	42	45	53	60
Motor Cyclists	2	2	19	12	25	24	46	38
Pillion Passengers	-	-	6	1	3	6	9	7
Pedal Cyclists	1	-	8	14	12	15	21	29
Pedestrians	1	-	6	7	11	8	18	15
Totals	6	2	66	67	136	134	208	203

The total figure for accidents causing injury has increased slightly this year, 208 compared with 203 in 1964. Unfortunately, 6 of those injured died, 4 more than last year. Two drivers, 2 motor cyclists, 1 pedestrian and 1 pedal cyclist lost their lives. There were 2 more slightly hurt but 1 less with serious injury.

Drivers and motor cyclists had a much worse experience, while pedal cyclists and passengers in cars were more fortunate in 1965.

Children's Accidents (1965)

Separate figures for accidents in which children under 15 were injured are given below:-

	<u>Fatal</u>		<u>Serious</u>		<u>Slight</u>		<u>Total of Injured Children</u>	
	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>
<u>Children under 15</u>								
(a) Pedestrians	1	-	3	1	4	2	8	3
(b) Cyclists	-	-	2	1	5	7	7	8
							<u>15</u>	<u>11</u>

There was an increase of 4 in the total number injured, there was one death of a child pedestrian, 5 were seriously hurt, while the same number were slightly injured.

Record of 7 Years' Road Accidents Causing Injury to Children 1959 - 1965

	<u>Fatal</u>	<u>Serious</u>	<u>Slight</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pedestrians	2	15	26	43
Pedal Cyclists	-	19	45	64
	<u>2</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>71</u>	<u>107</u>

RETROSPECTIVELY

Since 1958, these tables have figured in my Annual Reports and the following totals of mishaps on the roads make up a melancholy record:-

<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>8 Years' Total</u>
208	203	233	214	210	179	178	179	1604

About 200 road users injured or killed every year in the district has been a regular feature of these reports for the last 8 years. The staggering total of 1604 were involved in personal damage during this period and 33 of them died.

Far too large a proportion of these casualties were young men in the age group 18-25, much too young to die or to be permanently disabled, as many of them were. It is very difficult to know what can be done about this useless waste of young life.

Excessive speed for the circumstances at the time is one of the most potent factors in disaster. Every mile an hour added cuts down the time available to take avoiding action if an unexpected emergency arises.

Haste for no special reasons seems to be behind many mishaps. How many times do we see the impatient motorist taking quite unnecessary risks in overtaking and later on to find him held up at traffic lights or some other obstruction, having gained exactly nothing in time and endangered his own life and others in the process!

Dangerous driving should be penalised much more heavily and the police must be encouraged to proceed against offenders before they kill anyone, and not only after. Reckless drivers must be taken off the roads by some means and the recently announced French method of impounding the driving licence and the car at the scene of the motoring offence seems a step in the right direction.

Winding country roads should have more positive signs, such as - "IT IS DANGEROUS TO OVERTAKE FOR THE NEXT X MILES", or better still - "FORBIDDEN". "There is never anything coming round this corner or over this bridge", is far too often someone's "Famous last words".

FOOD & DRUGS ACTS, 1938 - 1955

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1959

Brucellosis - No milk samples were reported as positive to brucella abortus during the year and no human cases of undulant fever were brought to my notice.

RETROSPECTIVELY

Since 1947, there has been an increasing amount of legislation under the Food and Drugs Act, specially under the Milk Regulations and in this district much statutory action has been necessary over the years.

The tuberculous infection of milk herds was one of the more serious problems as a cause of human illness particularly of children, and most of the cases on non-pulmonary type notified in the early years of my service were probably due to the bovine type of germ.

Powers to restrict milk sales from infected herds were used for the first time in 1950, when 5 herds were dealt with 3 for tuberculosis and brucella and 2 for brucellosis alone.

In my 1951 Report I said - "we cannot be proud that visitors are warned as gravely about drinking unboiled English milk as we are about unboiled Continental water".

"Undulant fever and bovine (type) tuberculosis are both milk-borne and therefore preventable diseases, and if preventable, why not prevented?"

In my 1954 Report - "If other countries can eradicate tuberculosis from their cattle, why cannot Britain?".

In my 1964 Report - "...cases of undulant fever will continue to occur and sometimes remain undiagnosed until, (a) a brucellosis eradication programme is put into operation, and (b) pasteurisation becomes universally compulsory".

The following table gives the picture of herd infection over the years since 1950:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Brucella</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1950	3	5	Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949
1951	3	8	
1952	3	1	
1953	-	3	
1954	3	3	Pasteurisation Order, 1955
1955	2	-	
1956	5	-	
1957	6	-	
1958	-	-	Case of Undulant fever - Raw T.T.Milk
1959	-	-	
1960	-	1	
1961	-	2	
1962	-	3	Case of Undulant fever - Raw T.T.Milk
1963	-	3	
1964	-	-	
1965	-	-	
Totals:	<u>25</u>	<u>29</u>	

The tuberculosis eradication scheme was very successful and it is now 8 years since a bulk sample of milk has been found to be infected.

The compulsory pasteurisation of all milk, except that from T.T.herds bottled on the farm, has certainly rendered a large amount of the retail supply safe for drinking.

Raw milk from T.T. herds, however, can still be, and often is, a danger to health from brucella or some other pathogenic germs affecting cows (or milk handlers).

In 1965, a brucellosis eradication programme has not yet been arranged, in spite of the example of many other countries including Northern Ireland. Sadly I have to confess that undulant fever can still be contracted by drinking raw milk and cream in this district.

Tuberculosis we have dealt with, when do we set about undulant fever?

ANTHRAX ORDER, 1938

Only one notification of anthrax was received during the year, a sow which died in the sty at Caister St. Edmund. The disease was confirmed and the usual disinfection procedure carried out. The only human contact was warned about the dangers of infection and advised to consult his doctor.

RETROSPECTIVELY

Since 1947, many cases of Anthrax have been notified, sometimes occurring in spates, suggesting a common source of infection and at other times just isolated cases possibly from infected pastures, as anthrax spores are very resistant and may survive a long time in the ground. As the disease can be transmitted to humans, energetic steps have always been taken to see that all persons likely to have been in contact with the infected animal, or its carcass, have been alerted to their personal danger.

The County arrangements and the co-ordination of all the various bodies involved with the Anthrax Order, did not appear to be wholly satisfactory and after a certain amount of pressure in the right quarters, a Conference of all interested parties was held in Norwich in 1962. This was most successful and there is now a reasonable "modus operandi" which, if conscientiously followed by everyone concerned, should lead to greater efficiency and control.

The position over the years has been as follows:-

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cattle	-	1	3	4	1	1	-	1	1	12
Pigs	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	8	12
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
										<hr/>
								Totals :		25

There is now a protective vaccine available and all workers in knacker's yards and certain trades concerned with hides and bristles would be well-advised to be protected. No case of human anthrax has been contracted from any of the above animal infections.

Infected bone meal has been indicted in some outbreaks and obviously steps should be taken to exclude from animal feeding stuffs any such material likely to be infected.

H O U S I N G

<u>Waiting List</u>		<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>
No. of applicants at 31st. December, 1965	...	410	335

Analysis of Waiting List

Small Unit Families	...	...	...	333	273
Large Unit Families	...	...	...	77	62

Note:

Small Unit Families are those suitable for 1 or 2 bedroomed dwellings and consist largely of married couples with 1 child or 2 children of the same sex. Large Unit Families mainly represent those with more than 2 children over the age of 8 of opposite sex.

Agricultural workers	...	...	...	64	51
Others	...	...	...	346	284

Local Authority Houses

Position at 31st. December, 1965

Pre-War	...	...	...	877	859
Post-War	...	...	...	1189	1140
				<hr/>	<hr/>
				2066	1999
				<hr/>	<hr/>

NEW BUILDING

Houses erected during 1965

By Council	...	50
By Private Building ..		353
		<hr/>
		403
		<hr/>

Under construction at end of 1965

By Council	...	15
By Private Building ..		220
		<hr/>
		235
		<hr/>

Private Building during the last 5 years

<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1960</u>
403	305	322	205	237	175

The number on the Waiting List has risen from 335 in 1964 to 410 at the end of 1965, but as a comprehensive check has not been made since September, 1964, the 1965 figures may be somewhat inflated.

The Council built 50 dwellings, 4 fewer than in 1964 and 15 more were under construction at the end of the year.

Casual vacancies amounted to 63 and these, added to 50 newly built dwellings, enabled 113 families to be re-housed by the Council, 14 of these being Slum Clearance cases.

Private building provided a record number of new houses even more than the peak year of 1963 and 100 more than in 1964. A further 235 were under construction at 31st. December.

At the end of 1965, the Council owned 2,066 dwellings, 877 pre-war and 1,189 post-war, representing 21.8% of all the inhabited houses in the district.

SLUM CLEARANCE

<u>Condemned Properties</u>		<u>1965</u>	<u>Occupied</u> <u>1965</u>	<u>Vacant</u> <u>1965</u>
Properties still standing	...	149	65	84
Properties demolished	...	191		
Demolition Orders revoked	...	0		
New Demolition Orders made, 1965		1		

<u>Undertakings</u>			<u>Occupied</u>		<u>Vacant</u>	
			<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>	<u>1964</u>
Properties still standing	...	123	68	63	55	49
Properties demolished	...	29				
Undertakings revoked	...	11				
New Undertakings not to re-let						
1965	...	9				

IMPROVEMENT TO EXISTING PROPERTY

Council Dwellings

Further progress was made with the modernisation of Council property and the following work was carried out during the year:-

<u>Complete amenities</u>	...	20	completed in 1965
		72	in hand
		50	plans being prepared

The present position in regard to Council house improvement is as follows:-

Total No. of pre-war houses	:	877
No. with complete amenities		183
No. without hot water systems		56
No. being modernised		72
No. being planned		50
		<hr/>
		361

Total No. of houses without modernisation.		516
(completed, in process, or planned)		<hr/>

N.B. All Council houses have water laid on, a sink indoors and an electricity supply.

Private Property

During 1965, the following improvement grants were made:-

- (1) Discretionary - 24 (affecting 30 units) £9,501
- (2) Standard - 51 (affecting 59 units) £11,907

During the last 10 years, improvement grants have been made in respect of nearly 1,000 units of accommodation at a cost of over £250,000.

One can assume that all post-war private development was built to modern standards but it is impossible to estimate how many pre-war privately owned houses lacked modern amenities.

There were about 6,000 pre-war private dwellings and 1 in 6 of these have had improvement grants since the war.

Comment

The volume of improvement work carried out in properties under the two types of ownership, private and Council, shows a striking difference. One would have thought that priority would have been given to local housing authorities and that all of their houses would have had modern amenities long before 1965.

Nearly 500 Council houses still have pail closets and no bathrooms and whatever the reason for this continued antiquated way of living and the obstacles to its abolition, this state of affairs must be deplored.

The usual procedure was carried out and all standholders were informed of the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and the service available to them at the Showground.

Conditions were satisfactory and it is gratifying to note that more firms were paying attention to hygiene in their displays and less exposed food was seen to be at risk from various types of contamination, always very adverse education in good food handling.

The continued willingness of the Director, Secretary and Show Committee to co-operate with the public health staff is again a pleasure to record.

RETROSPECTIVELY

The Showground in 1965 was in great contrast to the picture seen at Keswick in 1955, when the only water supply to a refreshment tent, an open zinc bath, was described as "a fly cemetery", providing cooling for tinned meat and liquid for cold drinks!

The advent of the Royal Show in 1957 to the Showground at Costessey, helped to improve some of the amenities provided and since then, over the years, each Show has been better run than its predecessor. However, adverse criticism could not be avoided one year when live beasts were bedded down within easy "fly"-ing distance of an open case of butcher's meat, and private catering provided many headaches behind the stands in regard to refuse and waste water disposal.

In 1958, letters were sent in advance to all standholders drawing their attention to the services provided on the ground, how to maintain cleanly conditions behind their stands, and setting out details of the Food Hygiene Regulations. This practice was found to be so effective that it has been followed every year since and apart from occasional carelessness, conditions have improved very much in consequence.

Drainage and flush lavatories, a good water supply and a certain number of permanent buildings have now transformed the Royal Norfolk Show into a demonstration of how such functions should be run. Education of the users themselves in good standards of hygiene over the years has brought results which have made these persistent efforts well worth while.

W A T E R S U P P L Y

A full account of the water supply position in the district will be found in the Report of the Surveyor and Water Engineer.

In 1965, there was still no improvement in the fluoride content of the water and dental disease continues to be much more prevalent than it needs to be.

S E W E R A G E

An account of recent sewerage schemes and the position in regard to main drainage to the district will be found in the Engineer and Surveyor's Report.

Again my main comment is to point out the folly of planning permission being granted for building development of land which has not been proved to be suitable for the type of drainage to be provided, namely, cesspools with soakaways.

The onus of proof should be on the developers of the land and the responsibility for satisfactory sewerage arrangements should be theirs. It should also be a requirement that the responsibility of the tenant of a dwelling with cesspool drainage be pointed out to him before he takes possession of the house.

It should not be possible to build "in a bog", for not only will the cesspool overflow but the house will also be flooded in wet weather. Private builders have an uncanny knack of interfering with existing land drains and then failing to provide an adequate replacement.

S O C I A L H E A L T H

THE ELDERLY

Old People's Clubs continued to flourish and one new one was started at Barnham Broom bringing the total for the district to 19.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Day and Time of Meeting</u>	
Barnham Broom	Village Hall	Tuesday (alt.)	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Bawburgh	Village Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Braconash	Reading Room	Tuesday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Colton	Village Hall	Thursday (alt.)	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
New Costessey	Scouts Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Old Costessey	Parish Room	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Deopham	Church Room	Tuesday	2.15 - 4.30 p.m.
Easton	Village Hall	Wednesday (alt.)	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Hethersett	Methodist Chapel	Wednesday	2.30 - 5.00 p.m.
Hingham	Lincoln Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Marlingford	Village Hall	Thursday (alt.)	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Mulbarton	Wingfield Hall	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Poringland	Village Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Rockland St. Mary	Margaret Mack Hall	Thursday (alt.)	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Saxlingham Nethergate	Village Hall	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Shotesham	Village Hall	Thursday (alt.)	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Surlingham	Parish Hall	Tuesday (alt.)	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Trowse	Church Room	Thursday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Wicklewood	Village Hall	Wednesday	2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Regular club meetings, parties, theatre and other outings, together with more and more ambitious holidays, made up a very full programme for the older members of the community in 1965.

The Chiropody Service continued to operate through the clubs and the Meals-on-Wheels Scheme expanded to take in still more parishes.

Voluntary services, as well as Home Helps, District Nurses and Welfare Officers, helped to make it possible, comfortable and happy for the majority of old people to remain in their own homes, which is where they would all prefer to be.

THE DISABLED

The District Committee of the Norfolk Association for the Care of the Handicapped was again active during 1965 visiting the disabled in their homes, taking them to parties and outings and arranging for many of them to have holidays either at Caister or at Gorleston Holiday Camps.

This type of voluntary service is so unobtrusive that it is hardly noticed by the public, but to those whose lives are seriously contracted by physical handicap, it comes like sunshine and fresh air into a closed, dark room. Statutory bodies will never be able wholly to replace the rich gifts of kindness and understanding which good voluntary workers bring to this kind of service.

THE GROVE CHESHIRE HOME, EAST CARLETON

This wonderful home for the disabled continued to flourish during the year. Since the opening of the extension there has been accommodation for 30 residents and these places are always filled quickly should anyone leave, or unfortunately die.

Voluntary help from people in the district and beyond has been invaluable since the opening in 1961 and not only is the district fortunate to have the Home within its boundaries, but the Home itself is lucky to have such kindly local helpers.

It is known in the Cheshire Foundation as one of the most beautiful and happiest of their establishments in this country.

RETROSPECTIVELY

The history of voluntary service in this district during the last 19 years makes most encouraging reading.

In my Report of 1947, I said " A well-organised Old People's Welfare Service would be very useful in preventing cases of real hardship among the less active members of the community". I pointed out that the new powers under the National Health Service Act and the National Assistance Act would enable local authorities to set up such services or to contribute towards them. This district's first 4 Old People's Clubs were started in 1948 and the movement spread quickly. By 1954, the number had risen to 9 and by 1965,

the record figure of 19 was reached and it can be said that no parish of any size is now without this amenity.

The W.V.S. began a Meals-on-Wheels Service in the early 60's in 6 parishes and in 1965 delivered 6,417 meals in 14 parishes covering 8,000 miles.

In 1947, the disabled of the district were hardly catered for at all, but a District Committee of the Norfolk Association for the Care of the Handicapped was formed in 1956 and since then all the physically handicapped of the district, who wish to be included, have had a chance of wider horizons and a more varied social life.

Finally, in 1961 came the opening of the lovely Cheshire Home at The Grove, East Carleton, providing a happy home life for 24, (now 30), severely disabled people and a further outlet for voluntary service by devoted local residents.

The District Council has assisted financially the above services, giving £50 annually to the Meals-on-Wheels Service, providing Meeting facilities for the Norfolk Association and assisting in many other ways.

C O U N T Y S E R V I C E S

County Council Child Welfare Centres are held as follows:-

<u>Centre</u>	<u>Where Held</u>	<u>Day of Month</u>	
New Costessey	Scouts Hut, Gunton Lane	3rd. Tuesday	} Medical Officer attends regularly
New Costessey	Methodist Church	last Tuesday	
Old Costessey	Parish Hall	2nd. Tuesday	
Hethersett	Methodist School Room	3rd. Tuesday	
Wingham	Lincoln Hall	2nd. Wednesday	
Mulbarton	Wingfield Hall	1st. Wednesday	
Poringland	Parish Hall	1st. Tuesday	
Stoke Holy Cross	Village Hall	3rd. Tuesday	} Medical Officer attends occasionally
Bawburgh	Village Hall	last Wednesday	
Cringleford	Patteson Club	3rd. Wednesday	
Kirby Bedon	Parish Room	2nd. Monday	
Morley St. Botolph	Village Hall	last Thursday	
Rockland St. Mary	Margaret Mack Hall	last Tuesday	
Saxlingham Nethergate	Village Hall	2nd. Tuesday	
Surlingham	Parish Hall	last Thursday	
Shotesham	Trinity Hall	2nd. Wednesday	
Upper Stoke Holy Cross	St. George's Hall	2nd. Thursday	
Wicklewood	Village Hall	1st. Friday	

(All Centres are held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

GENERAL WELFARE SERVICES

Headquarters : Local Health Office, Area No. 4,
Aspland Road, Riverside Road, Norwich,
NOR 19S

County Welfare Officers continue to provide general services throughout the district and in addition to Headquarters, there are the following contact points where the public can obtain advice:-

<u>Parish</u>		<u>Welfare Officer Attends</u>
Costessey	: C/O Mr. Cox, 108 Norwich Road.	Wednesday - 11.00 a.m. to 12 noon
Hingham	: C/O Mrs. Rosbrook, Bell Corner	Monday - 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

NATIONAL WELFARE FOODS

National Welfare Foods may be obtained from the following:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Addresses from where National Welfare Foods are obtainable (Monday to Friday)</u>
Barford	Mrs. Mower, Post Office
New Costessey	Mrs. Dynes, Upper Stafford Avenue
	Mr. Adcock, Kabin Road Stores
Hethersett	Mrs. Thraxton, "Thornley", Gt. Melton Road
Hingham	Mrs. Mann, Market Square
Morley	Miss Allen, Post Office
Mulbarton	Miss Middleton, Post Office
Stoke Holy Cross	Mr. Elsey, Post Office
Trowse	Mr. Parfitt, General Stores
Wicklewood	Mrs. Atkins, Post Office

G E N E R A L S U R V E Y O F 1965

The health of the district has been satisfactory during the year. The birth rate has risen, the death rate remains low and the infant mortality rate has fallen to a low figure only twice bettered.

Infectious diseases were much less prevalent with no deaths, even from tuberculosis.

Road accidents caused more injuries and deaths to both adults and children.

There was much new building by both Council and private builders. Increasing difficulties were encountered with cesspool drainage on unsuitable land.

Main sewerage schemes for all rapidly developing parishes became an even more obvious and urgent necessity.

Voluntary Service continued to expand in scope to the great benefit of the elderly, the disabled and other members of the Community in need.

S U R V E Y O F N I N E T E E N Y E A R S

How far have we got in 19 years? What has gone supremely well and where have we lagged behind?

Infectious disease shows the best record with poliomyelitis and diphtheria conquered, tuberculosis under control and whooping cough tamed. These are victories for direct medical action with public consent.

Medicine is also partly responsible for the much improved survival rate of infants aided by better housing, maternal education and nursing care. A rising birth rate and a falling death rate are good signs of a thriving community.

Environmental improvement has come from slum clearance, accelerated house building and some modernisation of older property, steady extension of water mains has brought a safe, piped supply to the majority of houses and a certain number of parishes have acquired main drainage.

Personal cleanliness is now almost universal, with verminous conditions and scabies things of the past.

Voluntary action has revolutionised the lot of the elderly and the disabled by supplementing statutory services.

Veterinarians and the farming community have co-operated to eradicate bovine tuberculosis and legislation has required the greater part of the milk supply to be made safe by pasteurisation.

This is a glowing account of progress but are there not less pleasing aspects of the picture?

Increasing numbers of men smoke themselves to death with cancer of the lung or else cough their way through long bronchitic months of "sickness absence" from work.

Murderous, or suicidal, users of motor vehicles give a mounting casualty list specially of young men killed or wounded.

Raw milk infected with brucella can still be retailed, while a brucellosis eradication programme remains but a pious hope.

Bathrooms and flush lavatories are still missing from 500 Council houses.

Overflow from cesspools mars some otherwise pleasant vistas from newly built homes, while developing parishes wait patiently for long overdue drainage schemes.

Water, which could prevent 60% of tooth decay, remains deficient in fluoride.

Have we really got our priorities right?

And Saxlingham Sewer Ditch - is it, like the poor, to be always with us?

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CONCLUSION

I should like to end by thanking the Council and the Public Health Committee for their real interest in, and appreciation of, the work I have tried to do over the last 19 years.

It has been a rewarding experience to serve this Authority, I leave it with real regret but with sincere good wishes for its future.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the helpfulness and efficiency of the staff of the public health department and other officers of the Council. All have made my work more pleasant and effective by their willing co-operation and I know that my successor can depend on their continued help.

I have had the honour to have been,

Your obedient Servant,

IRENE B. M. GREEN

Medical Officer of Health

T H E A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ended

31st. December, 1965

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report for the year 1965.

The establishment of the Public Health Department was brought back to normal by the appointment in June of Mr. F. B. Douglas as an Additional Public Health Inspector. The Student Public Health Inspector, Mr. R. Secker, completed the third year of his Course and qualified to proceed to the final year.

I regret to record that Mr. H. Howard, Public Health Foreman, died on the 23rd. March, after a serious operation. Mr. Howard had given good and valued service to the Council since his appointment and his place was taken by the promotion of the Senior Motor Engineer, Mr. V. Cotton.

A glance at the Summary of Inspections again shows that the main work of the department was concentrated on housing and meat inspection, with particular reference to housing improvement grants. Day to day investigations in connection with public cleansing and pest control were carried out by staff other than the Public Health Inspectors and are not included in the summary figures.

The increase over the last few years of inspectorial staff has resulted in heavier responsibilities for the internal staff and although the appointment of a Student Public Health Inspector improved the position for a time whilst he was occupied mainly on internal training, it is important that an adequate permanent office staff is maintained, if the full benefit of the staff is to be felt.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE AREA

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Housing	769	Scrap Metal Dealers' Act	20
Public Health Acts	272	Pest Control	25
Water Supplies	157	Factories Act	26
Drainage	177	Animal Boarding	
Public Cleansing Services	363	Establishments	18
Infectious Disease	625	Knacker's Yard	5
Slaughterhouses and		Petroleum Acts	27
Meat Inspection	1683	Smoke Nuisances	20
Housing Improvement		Offices, Shops and	
Grants	1256	Railway Premises Act	41
Caravans	476	Anthrax	3
Disinfestations and		Miscellaneous	265
Disinfections	33		
Food & Drugs Act & Food			
Hygiene Regulations	175		
Cemeteries	128		
			6564

WATER SUPPLIES

The following table gives details of samples taken from private wells. These are mainly the result of complaints or investigations in cases of sickness, high nitrate content or for improvement grant purposes. It was not necessary to take statutory action to provide alternative fit supplies or to render the existing supplies satisfactory.

There was no serious shortage of water in the district during the year. The whole district is served by mains supplies, the sources of which are from the Norwich Water Authority, Wymondham Urban District Council or Council Estates Bores.

	<u>No. taken</u>	<u>Fit</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Doubtful</u>
Bacteriological	41	18	20	3

SEWERAGE AND SEWER DITCHES

During the year good progress was made in connection with sewerage schemes for some of the larger parishes and the end of the Saxlingham sewer ditch nuisance seems to be in sight.

A number of complaints were received, mainly from newly completed residential housing estates in such parishes as Barford,

Mulbarton, Newton Flotman, Swardeston and Swainsthorpe, where serious difficulties were being experienced to cope with overflowing cesspools. Other than some form of temporary relief in connection with the cost of cesspool emptying, the only satisfactory solution is to push forward with sewerage schemes for those parishes.

No large scale operation was necessary in connection with sewer ditches but the position became worse in the case of a ditch at Wreningham where it was apparent that drainage from soakaways and irrigation drains serving nearby recently erected properties, was percolating through the subsoil into the ditch.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The district is covered by a refuse collection service which includes a weekly collection in some of the larger parishes, i.e., Costessey, Cringleford, Hingham and Trowse Newton, and elsewhere a fortnightly collection. The collection is operated under the "skep from back door" method except for isolated properties where arrangements are made for the bin to be placed near the highway. The fleet of five vehicles comprises a 'continuous' rear-loader, two 'dual-tip' and two 'moving-floor' vehicles. During the year further consideration was given to the possibility of a Paper Sack Collection Scheme and Bonus Scheme for the refuse collectors. The difficulty in obtaining suitable labour gets worse each year and I am of opinion that within the next few years it will be necessary to further improve working conditions for the men in the methods of collection and the rate of remuneration. With this in mind and the need for a weekly collection service over the whole of the area, it was decided to purchase two vehicles of the 'continuous' rear-loading type, one as a replacement for smaller vehicles and the other as an addition to the fleet, together with additional labour.

The Council do not operate a separate salvage scheme and small traders' refuse is normally collected in conjunction with household refuse. A special service during the summer months is arranged for the collection of refuse at various points in the river and broads area of the district.

Special free arrangements are also made for the collection of refuse from the Wymondham and Keswick Colleges.

Refuse disposal became more difficult owing to the lack of suitable disposal points and even when suitable pits or waste land is found, economical disposal is impossible owing to the lack of covering soil. Every opportunity is being taken to investigate other methods of disposal.

The present disposal sites include the Council owned pit at Hackford, a Council controlled tip at Cringleford and three smaller sites at Poringland, Little Melton and Newton Flotman. It must

again be emphasised that it is these latter type of disposal points which cause the most trouble and often necessitate a great deal of extra work by the Council to abate nuisances from fires, vermin, etc. The disposal points are serviced by one bucket type earth moving machine and if similar arrangements for disposal continue, the number of disposal points must be kept to the minimum if this one machine is to satisfactorily cope with the work.

Night Soil Collection

Night soil collection continues to operate over the district as a whole but not to every isolated property which still lacks a water closet. Two vehicles are engaged, each with two men and the service is a weekly one. Owing to the difficulty of disposal on agricultural land, it is now necessary to discharge direct into the public sewers. The work is carried out mainly during the hours of darkness and the Council is fortunate that at the moment little difficulty is experienced in finding suitable labour.

Cesspool Emptying

For the first time I am able to record a fairly substantial reduction in the number of loads removed from private dwellings, this is undoubtedly due to the fact that the sewerage schemes already carried out in the district have now covered some of the original 'black spots'. From the figures given below it will be seen that there was also a small decrease in the number of loads removed from Council Estates but more work was carried out during 1965 for properties outside the district boundary.

Disposal of cesspool contents is almost wholly done by discharge into the public sewers.

The following are the details of cesspool emptying work carried out during the year:-

		<u>Visits</u>	<u>Loads Removed</u>
(a)	Private ...	1904	2606
(b)	Council Estates and Sewage Plants ...	708	1863
(c)	Outside District ...	94	129
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		2706	4598
		<hr/>	<hr/>

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The work under this Section continued as for previous years with one full-time Vermin Destroyer dealing with all notifications and complaints of infestation and also surveying as much of the district as possible during the course of the year. Private premises are given a free service but a charge is made for all work carried out at business premises. This includes a small amount of work carried out on horticultural and

agricultural properties. It is impossible to do any surveys or large scale work on agricultural properties with only the one employee.

Although the figures given below deal with a large number of inspections and treatment of premises, there was no evidence that any widely spread large scale infestation existed in the district.

Number of properties inspected:

(a)	as a result of notification	...	462
(b)	by survey under the Act	...	3245

Number of inspections and re-inspections ..	3739
---	------

Number of properties treated	...	1354
------------------------------	-----	------

HOUSING

The general position in the district remained fairly static as far as slum clearance was concerned and a total of only 10 properties came forward for action either by Demolition Orders or Undertakings. Nevertheless, there are indications that despite progress which has been made by owners taking advantage of improvement grants to modernise properties, there are a number of dwellings which have fallen into disrepair since the last slum clearance survey, and it is anticipated that a further special effort will soon be necessary, either in conjunction with a survey for the purpose of 'improvement areas' under the Housing Act, 1964 or a separate slum clearance survey to ascertain the latest position.

Whilst it has not been necessary to serve statutory notices for repairs to dwellings, a number of properties have been put into a reasonable state of repair as a result of 'informal' action. In addition to this it should be remembered that a large number of dwellings improved under the improvement grant scheme were also in a bad state of repair and have been saved from other statutory action in this way. The details which follow in connection with improvement grants already begin to confirm the opinions I expressed last year in as far as the increased allowance for 'Standard' grants would reduce the number of 'Discretionary' grant applications. I am still of the same opinion that this will continue probably to a greater extent in the next year or two unless an increase is allowed to the ceiling of £400 for 'Discretionary' grants. It is difficult to understand why this was not automatic when it is remembered that £800 worth of work 10 years ago for which a £400 grant could be obtained, must now cost nearly double, and still with no increase in the grant.

The following gives details of applications received:-

	<u>Standard</u>	<u>Discretionary</u>	<u>Total</u>
Applications received ...	48	26	74
Units concerned ...	56	32	88
Applications approved ...	51	24	75
Units concerned ...	59	30	89
Owner/occupier dwellings ...	32	17	49
Dwellings let ...	27	13	40
Total amount of grants approved	£11,907	£9,501	£21,408

'Discretionary' grants transferred to 'Standard' grants : 1

'Discretionary' grants refused : 1

CARAVAN SITES & CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Perhaps I shall be forgiven if I place at the top of the table of progress the subject of movable dwellings, for it was during 1965 that the Council's Caravan Park at Costessey was completed and occupied. After so many years of argument and bitter comment from some quarters it was a great relief to think that at last some tangible step had been taken in the effort to solve the caravan problem in the parish of Costessey in particular.

After final approval by the Ministry, work commenced in February and the site was completed during October and by the 18th. of that month the 28 families, comprising 61 adults and 19 children, were in residence. The site was officially opened by the Chairman of the Council on the 16th. November and good Press and Television publicity was given.

Since then a number of enquiries have been made from other local authorities and some as far afield as Chelmsford have visited the site. It is early yet to comment on the general position as far as the success of the venture is concerned but by the end of the year there was every indication that the tenants had begun to settle down comfortably into a small community, and there were a number of enquiries from other caravan dwellers to be placed on the 'Waiting List'.

In addition to the Council's Caravan Park there were 5 other sites licensed in the district for the purpose of letting standings, one at Mulbarton for 14 caravans, three at Costessey for 15, 12 and 4 caravans respectively and one at Wramplingham for 6 caravans. There were also a number of single caravan sites approved on a temporary basis for varying periods whilst the occupants were building their own permanent dwelling on the site.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

175 visits to food premises were made during the year and whilst in some cases it was necessary to ask for improvements, no

statutory action was necessary and the general standard remained satisfactory. In addition to normal inspections, I have again to report that special arrangements were made for maintaining the already high standard for temporary outside catering arrangements at the Royal Norfolk Show which had gradually built up as a result of our efforts over the last few years, and I am pleased to be able to say that the high standard of outside catering was maintained.

PETROLEUM REGULATIONS

121 licences were issued for the storage of petroleum spirit or mixtures. In the main these concerned garages and petrol filling stations. Two premises were also licensed for the storage of inflammable materials used in manufacturing processes. In all cases of new installations, the necessary inspections and testing for compliance with the Regulations were carried out.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1948 and 1961

The following tabulated details are in accordance with the Return required by the Ministry:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	2	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	130	87	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	3	3	-	-
Totals :	135	94	-	-

Cases in which defects were found

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
<u>Sanitary Conveniences, Section 7</u>		
(a) Insufficient	1	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

Outwork

<u>Nature of work</u>	<u>No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec.110</u>	<u>No. of instances of work in un- wholesome premises</u>
Wearing apparel - making etc.	5	-
Brush making	-	-
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.	4	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	9	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

This Act came into operation on the 1st. January, 1964 and during the year 7 premises were licensed for the purpose of boarding establishments for animals.

During the year the premises were re-visited and were found to comply with the requirements of the Act.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

There were still 4 licensed slaughterhouses in the district, 1 in the parish of Costessey, 1 at Hethersett and 2 at Swardeston. In two, the killing is for the wholesale trade and it is in these slaughterhouses that the bulk of the killing is carried out. The premises were inspected during the year by an Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and were considered satisfactory.

Meat inspection was carried out mainly by an Authorised Meat Inspector plus part-time help from the Public Health Inspectors. 100% inspection of carcasses was carried out and those fit for human consumption were marked in accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963. The hours of slaughter in the various premises necessitated weekend and other over-time work. Condemned meat is disposed of satisfactorily either on the premises concerned or at an authorised disposal plant.

The following figures, which are set out in accordance with the Ministry's requirements for Annual Returns, show that there was again a decrease in the number of animals slaughtered, in fact, there was a reduction in all classes of animals. This would appear to be the result of the increase in the number of supermarkets and chain shops now specialising in the meat trade, the supply for which is derived from large abattoirs in other parts of the country where, no doubt, there is in those districts an increase in the amount of slaughtering.

It will be noted from the statistics of meat condemned that the low percentage of meat condemned for tuberculosis was maintained, although there was this year one carcase of pork condemned for generalised tuberculosis. The figures of Cysticercosis show a small increase on last year's figures despite the drop in the number of animals slaughtered.

SUMMARY OF ANIMALS KILLED AND INSPECTED AND DETAILS OF CARCASES AND PARTS CONDEMNED

<u>Cattle</u> (excluding cows)	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	-	<u>Total</u>
3493	1069	95	1727	28,530		34,914

STATISTICS OF MEAT CONDEMNED AS REQUIRED BY THE MINISTRY

<u>All diseases</u> <u>Ex. Tuberculosis</u> <u>and Cysticerci</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep &</u> <u>Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	1	-	18
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	984	673	3	271	3471
Percentage of number inspected, affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	28.17%	62.95%	3.15%	15.69%	12.16%

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	334
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.17%

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	27	8	-	19	-
Carcases treated by refrigeration	27	8	-	-	-
Generalised and condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Details of meat condemned:

BEEF

1 Steer (Oedema)

1 Cow (Septicaemia)

VEAL

1 Calf (Immaturity)

PORK

7 Pigs (Pyæmia)

2 Sows (Emaciation)

3 Pigs (Fevered)

1 Sow (Fevered)

1 Pig (Malignant Tumours)

1 Sow (Carcinoma)

1 Pig (Oedema)

1 Boar (Leukaemia)

1 Pig (Generalised Tuberculosis)

1 Pig (Acute Septic Peritonitis)

MUTTON

No carcasses condemned

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Total weight of carcasses condemned :	1	11	3	18
Total weight of parts of carcasses and offal condemned :	22	9	2	20
<hr/>				
Total weight condemned :	24	1	2	10
<hr/>				

KNACKER'S YARD

There is one licensed knacker's yard in the district and during the year no cause was found for statutory action. The premises were also visited for the purpose of anthrax notification and the necessary precautions and destruction of carcasses and disinfection of premises were carried out in conjunction with the Ministry and Police departments.

CEMETERIES

The Council continued to be responsible for the cemeteries at Trowse Newton and Hingham. General maintenance and grave digging arrangements were controlled by the Public Health Department.

CENTRAL DEPOT

As already mentioned at the beginning of this report a great loss was suffered by the death of the Public Health Foreman whose duties included the supervision of the gangs for the public cleansing services and the servicing and repair of all the Council's vehicles. The responsibility for the issue of petrol and oil, together with the general garaging of vehicles, also fell upon the Public Health Foreman and these duties were carried out satisfactorily during the year.

When the Senior Engineer was promoted to Public Health Foreman his place was taken by the appointment of a second motor engineer. This section of the general service is responsible for all repairs to Council vehicles including re-spraying.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Initial inspections for registration of premises were commenced during the year and owners of premises advised of the requirements of the Act.

One significant feature to arise from the inspections is the amount of inadequately guarded machinery and stairs which, until the commencement of the Act, was not covered by legislation applicable to this type of premises. Where this has been found the relevant reports have been forwarded to the Ministry of Labour.

The following table is an abstract of the details of the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry:-

<u>Registration and General Inspections</u>			
<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Premises Registered during year</u>	<u>Total number Registered</u>	<u>Registered Premises receiving general insp'n</u>
Offices ...	1	12	2
Retail shops ...	7	35	9
Wholesale shops and warehouses ...	-	5	-
Catering establishments open to public ...	-	2	-
Fuel storage depots ...	1	3	1
<u>Inspections of registered premises</u>			
Visits of all kinds by Inspectors			20

No applications for exemption from the requirements relating to space, temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities were received.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS' ACT, 1964

This Act requires every Local Authority to maintain a register of scrap metal dealers carrying on business in their area. It is an offence for any person to carry on such a business unless registered with a Local Authority.

Provision is made for the exemption of itinerant dealers from certain provisions of the Act relating to records and the Local Authority is empowered to make such exemption only after consultation with the local Chief Constable.

The following gives details of the present registrations:-

(a)	No. of enquiries for registration	:	14
(b)	No. of actual applications	:	10
(c)	No. of dealers registered	:	10
(d)	No. of exemption certificates issued	:	2

All applicants' premises have been inspected and all applicants advised of the requirements of the Act.

CONCLUSION

I would like to conclude this report by referring to Dr. I.B.M. Green the Medical Officer of Health. Whilst Dr. Green's forthcoming retirement will not take place until 1966, this will be the last year for her to make a full report and I would like to record on behalf of myself and staff our sincere thanks to Dr. Green for the very pleasant way in which the relations between the Medical Officer of Health and this department have been conducted during the 19 years we have served this Council together. Dr. Green's assistance and co-operation have always been willingly given and her directions put forward with conviction and I hope that my department has contributed in some measure towards the improvements which have been made in the realms of public health in this district during the term of her office. We extend to Dr. Green our sincere good wishes for a long and happy retirement.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and support and to the members of my staff for their willing co-operation and steady work throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

GEOFFREY A. J. BROWNE, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

OF THE

ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

FOR THE YEAR 1965

W A T E R S U P P L Y

All parishes in the District are now served by water mains. 26 parishes are in the Statutory Water Supply Area of the Norwich Corporation, and the remaining 16 from the Council's own Supply Area.

Water supplies for Newton Flotman (together with part of Saxlingham Thorpe) and for Kimberley are derived from Council owned boreholes equipped with pumps and pressure tanks. The rest of the area is supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Norwich Corporation, Wymondham Urban District Council, Mitford & Launditch Rural District Council and Wayland Rural District Council. The supply from Wymondham Urban District Council is taken from that Authority's reservoir at High Oak, Wicklewood and is delivered into Hingham, Deopham and Morley area mains through a booster pumping station owned and operated by the Council at Wicklewood. Supplies purchased from the other Authorities are delivered at the bulk supply points at sufficient pressure for general distribution.

It is estimated that the population in the Council's Supply Area is 7640. Some 800 persons are supplied with water from the Council's own sources and the remainder with water purchased in bulk.

WATER MAINS EXTENSIONS

During the year small extensions comprising 640 yards of 3" main were put in to serve two private housing sites at Newton Flotman and one at Barnham Broom.

The populous areas of the parishes of Costessey, Cringleford, Hethersett, Hingham, Poringland (including part of Framingham Earl, Upper Stoke Holy Cross and part of Caistor St. Edmund) and Trowse Newton are now comprehensively sewered. The estimated aggregate population served by sewers is 12,000.

PORINGLAND SEWERAGE, SECTION 4

Work on this Scheme started in April. It provides for the sewerage of part of Upper Stoke Holy Cross, from whence the sewage will be pumped to the existing sewer at Upper Stoke cross roads, and for increasing the capacities of the Octagon Farm Pumping Station and the Dove Lane Sewage Disposal Works. Good progress has been made on the work and by the end of the year the contract was almost 50% completed.

NEWTON FLOTMAN, FLORDON AND SAXLINGHAM SEWERAGE

In May, work commenced on a scheme for sewerage these three parishes, which comprises the construction of sewers, pumping stations at Flordon Street, Newton Flotman, Cargate Lane, Saxlingham, The Green, Saxlingham and a sewage disposal works at Elmers Lane, Saxlingham. By the end of the year some 50% of the sewers at Saxlingham and 30% of those at Newton Flotman had been constructed and work was in progress on the sewage disposal works site.

STOKE HOLY CROSS AND SWAINSTHORPE SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Authority to invite tenders for this scheme was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. During the year it was noted that the Norfolk County Council were engaged on large scale widening and re-alignment works on the A.140 Highway through Swainsthorpe. As a matter of urgency approval of the Ministry was sought and obtained for laying the road crossing pipes under the A.140 in advance of the main sewerage scheme to avoid future disturbance of the new highway surface and this work was satisfactorily carried out.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 47 - CLOSET CONVERSIONS

Costessey Conversion Scheme (Contract 2) was completed this year and all earth closets at dwellings capable of draining to the sewers have now been done away with and water closets installed.

Hethersett and Cringleford Conversion Scheme was also carried out this year, 53 earth closets in these parishes were converted to water closets and connected to the sewers.

HOUSING SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Barnham Broom The sewage disposal plant at Mill View, Barnham Broom was enlarged to accommodate the flow from additional dwellings to be built there.

COSTESSEY STREET LIGHTING

Costessey Lighting Scheme No. 4 which comprised the erection of some 243 lamps in New and Old Costessey was completed this year. Public lighting is now installed on all built-up County roads in the parish.

STREET NAMING

During the past few years a considerable amount of development has taken place in the parish of Wethersett and 36 street name plates were erected in the village this year to avoid the confusion which has from time to time arisen from the difficulty in identifying the streets in the absence of names.

N E W B U I L D I N G

The pace of new building work in the District was maintained at a similar high level to that of 1964, although there was a slight decrease in the number of plans deposited for Town Planning and Building Byelaw purposes, the figures being:-

1965 : 1210 1964 : 1263

During the year 353 private houses and 50 Council houses were completed and at 31st. December, 265 private houses and 15 Council houses were under construction.

Searches made under the Land Charges Act, 1925 totalled 1064.

19 appeals were made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government against the Council's refusal of planning permission and they were disposed of as follows:-

<u>Proposals</u>	<u>Appeals</u>	<u>Dismissed</u>	<u>Allowed</u>
Residential Development	17	15*	2
Caravans	1	1	-
Extraction of gravel	1	-	1

* NOTE Two appeals were dismissed without prejudice to the submission of new applications in each case, modifying the extent of the development.

The work of inspecting and supervising new buildings for byelaw purposes and the testing and inspection of drain connections to new sewers has been carried out satisfactorily. Excellent co-operation with building contractors has been maintained in the district and no infringements of either the Water or Building Byelaws occurred which could not be satisfactorily rectified by informal action.

WILLIAM A. JONES, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.

Engineer and Surveyor

• WATER SUPPLIES.

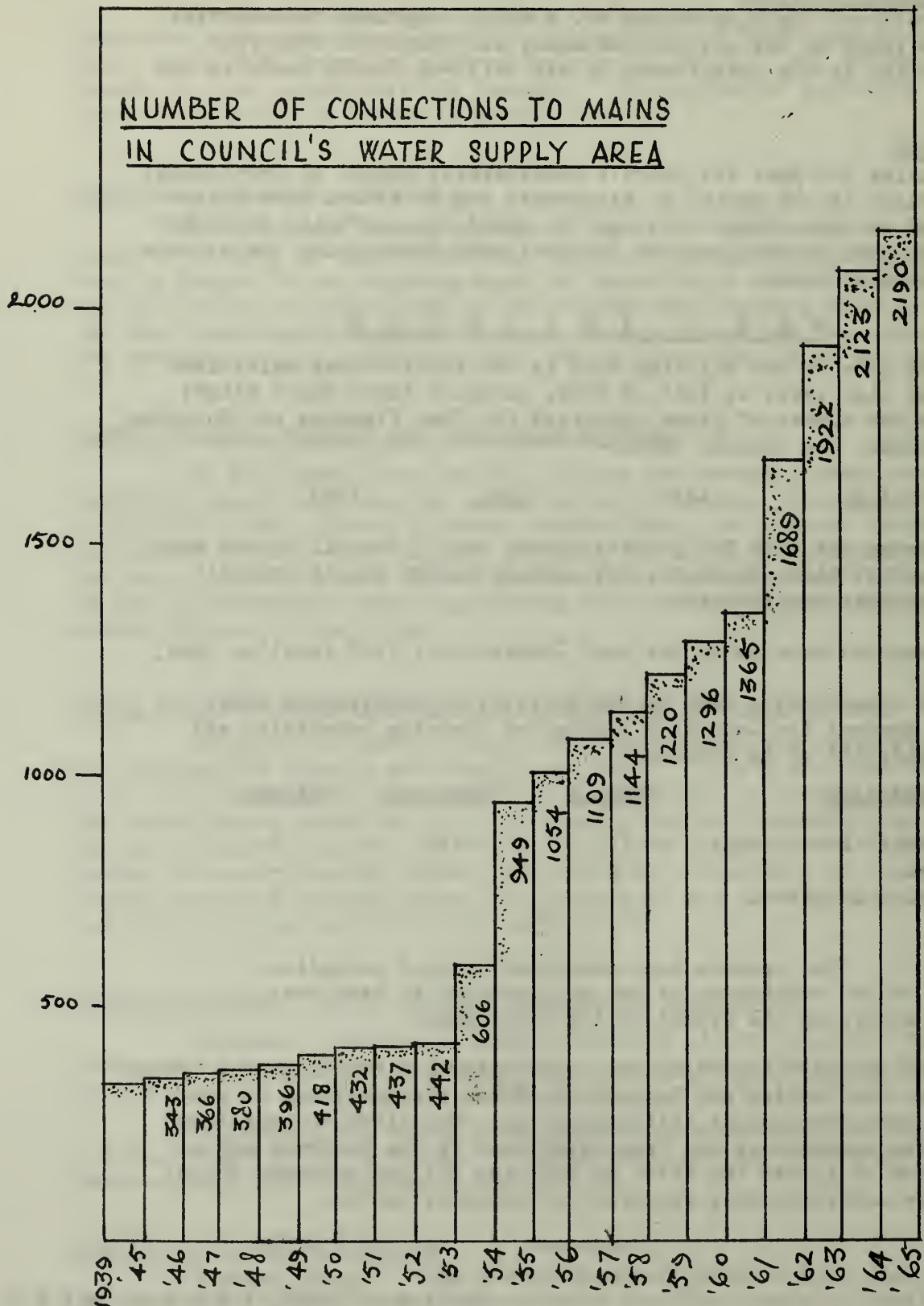


FIG. 1

PROPERTIES CONNECTED TO SEWERS

(INCLUDING SEWERS DISCHARGING TO COUNCIL HOUSING
SITE DISPOSAL WORKS)

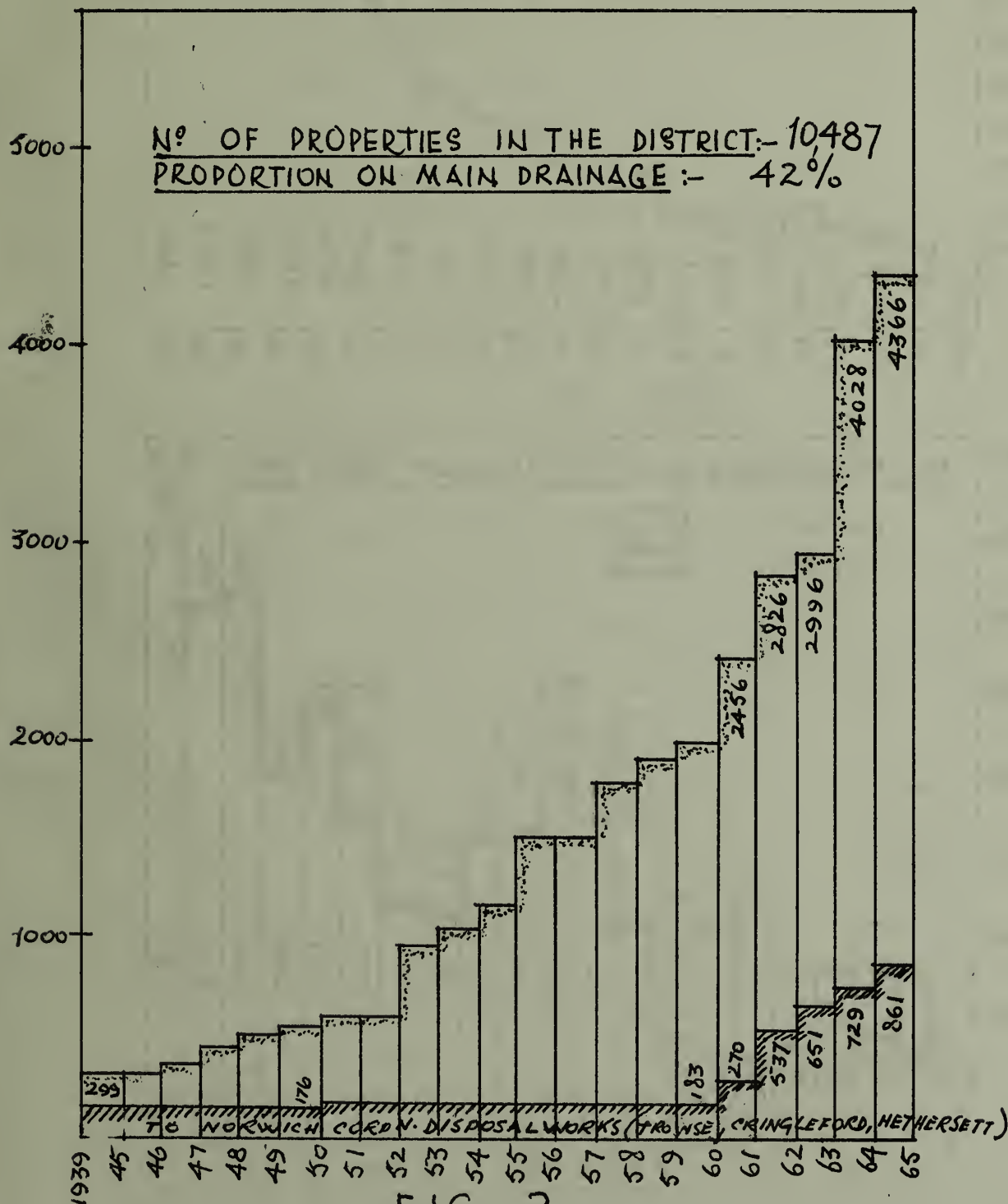


FIG. 2

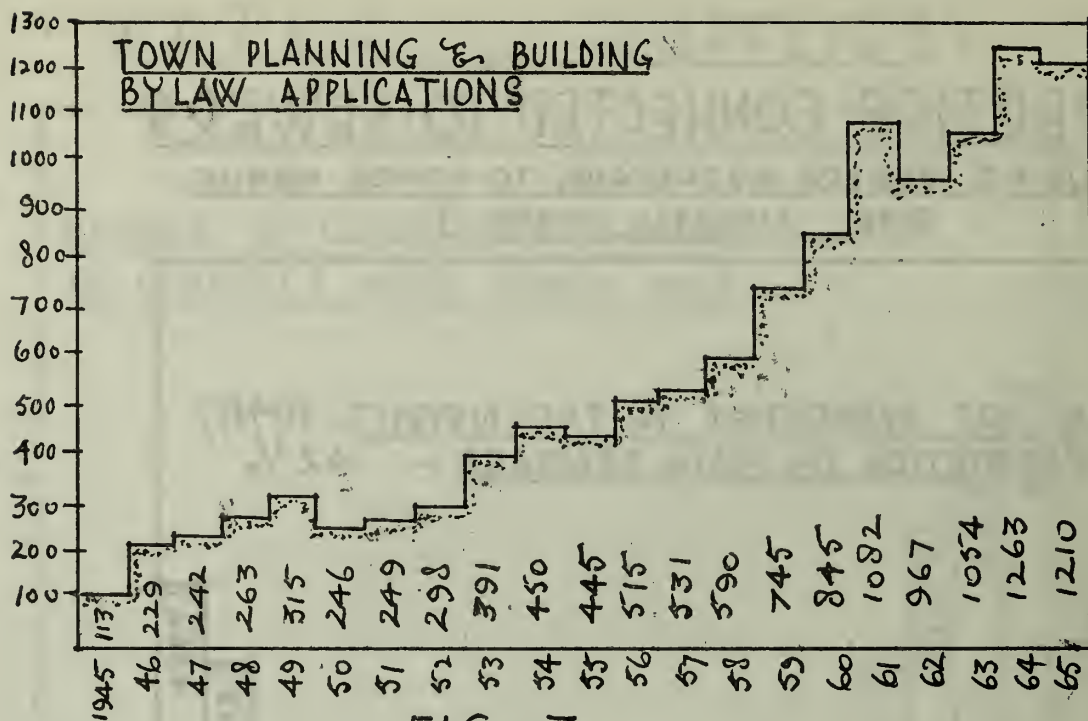


FIG. 3

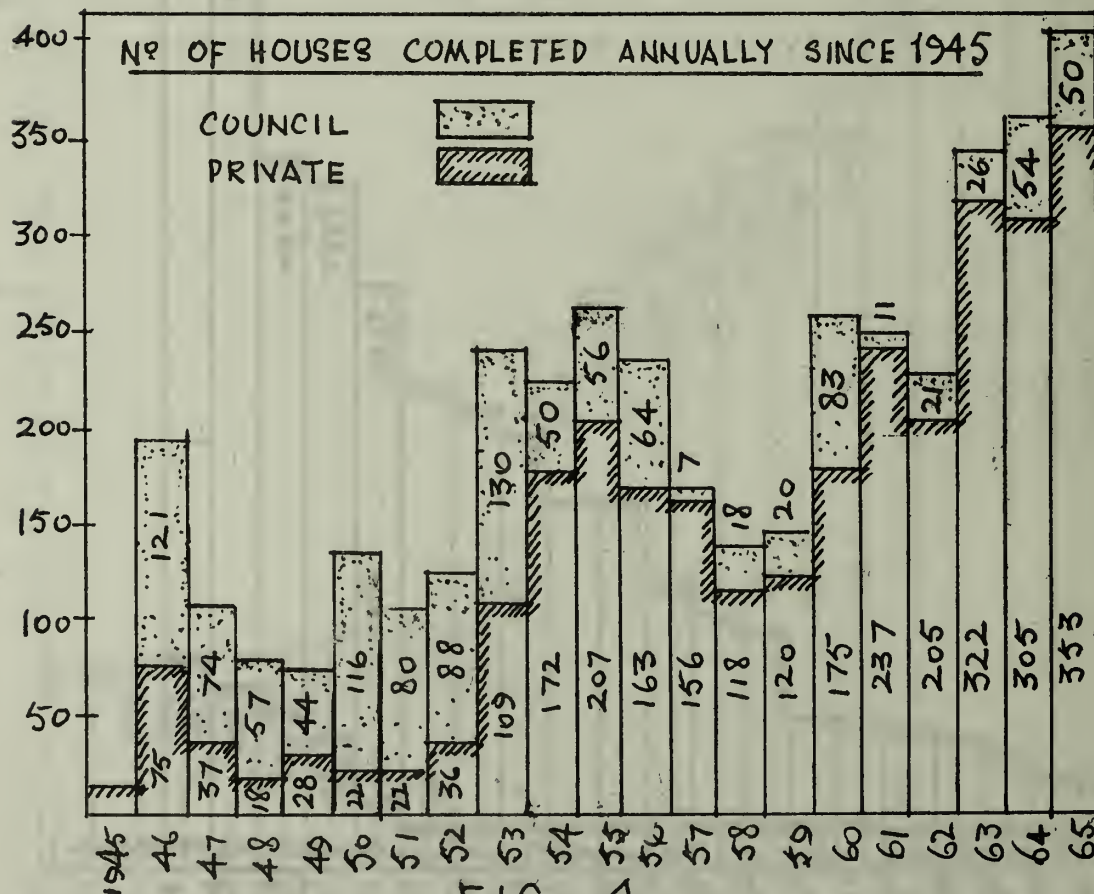


FIG. 4

S T A F F

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Irene B. M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Geoffrey A. J. Browne, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Bertie G. B. South, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

B. M. Baker,	M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
R. Stevenson,	M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
F. Douglas,	M.A.P.H.I.
R. Secker,	(Student Public Health Inspector)
D. Jonas,	(Meat Inspector)

ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

William A. Jones, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.

DEPUTY ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

Frederick J. Adds, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.
